UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/086,894	03/04/2002	Masahisa Tamura	1086.1158	1914

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EXAMINER
LE, DEBBIE M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2168	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
05/21/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/086,894	TAMURA ET AL.
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit	
	DEBBIE M. LE	2168	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *13 February 2007*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-35* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-35* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this

application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action

has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on Feb.

13, 2007 has been entered.

Specification

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly

indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the
United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application
by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this
title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Leblang et al (US Patent 5,574,898).

As per claim 1, Leblang discloses [a] file system which operates on an operating system, comprising:

an access executing unit which, when an access to a file occurs, processes said file in accordance with said access (col. 8, lines 31-42, as UNIX I/O calls such as read and open to elements are intercepted by the file system kernel, col. 14, lines 23-28);

a user defined process holding unit which holds a user defined process which has previously been defined by the user (col. 7, lines 2-8, lines 36-37, as user typically defined sub-branches in some of the elements); and

a file managing unit which manages said file (col. 20, lines 62-63, as each file element type has a type manager program which handles all elements of that type), **said file including a data area** (col. 20, lines 66-67, as the type manager for the text-file elements type implements the storage for text files (i.e., as data container) **and a meta data area** (col. 21, lines 6-8, as versions of files, for example, query commands

that work on the meta data enable users to find all versions creates by user John in that

last month with a CodeQuality of A), **said meta data area providing an extended**

meta data area to store extended meta data correlating said file and said user

defined process held in said user defined process holding unit (col. 18, lines 29-

40, as some kinds of meta data can be automatically recorded by the system as

development progress. This record is associated with the objects involved in system

operations, wherein the object are versions or elements, but the can also be the user-

defined meta-data objects); and

   a defined process executing unit which executes said user defined process

correlated by the extended meta data of said file managing unit by using the

access to said file as a trigger (col. 17, lines 34-48, as user performs operations, a

trigger fires executing a specific procedure actions).

   As per claim 2, Leblang further teaches wherein said file managing unit enables

the user to designate a format of said extended meta data area (col. 18, lines 45-46).

   As per claim 3, Leblang further teaches wherein said file managing unit

designates the format of said extended meta data area in accordance with contents in

said data area (col. 18, lines 47-52).

   As per claim 4, Leblang further teaches wherein said file managing unit sets

meta data, namely, a file type as a format of said extended meta data area and

determines the format of said extended meta data area in accordance with said

file type (col. 18, lines 48-52).

As per claim 5, Leblang further teaches wherein said file managing unit determines the file type upon creation of the file, sets the extended meta data area in accordance with said file type, and thereafter, enables the user to change said file type and change said extended meta data area (col. 18, lines 52-67).

As per claim 6, Leblang further teaches wherein said file managing unit automatically determines the file type from the contents in the data area of said file and also automatically determines said extended meta data area (col. 17, lines 28-33).

As per claim 7, Leblang further teaches wherein said file managing unit has a tree structure using a directory for managing a plurality of files, and the file type which is set upon creation of the file succeeds a file type of a parent directory (col. 6, lines 55-65).

As per claim 8, Leblang further teaches wherein said file managing unit holds information extracted from said data area as extended meta data into said extended meta data area (col. 18, lines 33-34).

As per claim 9, Leblang further teaches wherein said extended meta data extracted from said data area is duplicated and held in said data area and said extended meta data area (col. 13, lines 57-62, col. 14, lines 31-33).

As per claim 10, Leblang further teaches wherein in said extended meta data extracted from said data area, a substance is held in said data area and a pointer to the substance in said data area is held in said extended meta data area (col. 8, lines 43-51).

As per claim 11, Leblang further teaches wherein upon writing into the data area

of said file, said defined process executing unit changes extended meta data in

said meta data area on the basis of said user defined process (col. 18, lines 14-16, col.

11, lines 59-62).

As per claim 12, Leblang further teaches wherein upon writing into the data area

of said file, said defined process executing unit sends a message to a user

program which is additionally provided and changes extended meta data in said

extended meta data area (col. 11, lines 63-67).

As per claim 13, Leblang further teaches wherein upon writing into the data area

of said file, said defined process executing unit sets a data area change flag to

a high level and changes extended meta data extended in said extended meta data

area by using the fact, as a trigger, that said flag has been set to the high

level by a user program which is additionally provided (col. 12, lines 1-2).

As per claim 14, Leblang further teaches wherein said defined process executing

unit executes the user defined process in accordance with said file type (col. 16, lines 8-

16).

As per claim 15, Leblang further teaches an API for allowing the user

to define a process (col. 8, lines 35-36).

As per claim 16, Leblang further teaches wherein said API has a double layer

structure comprising an API which is executed in a kernel area and an API which

is executed in a user area (col. 8, lines 36-42).

As per claim 17, Leblang further teaches wherein a size of said extended meta data area is variable in accordance with the file contents (col. 10, lines 64-67).

Claims 18 and 35 recite similar limitations, except in the context of a method, a computer-readable medium, respectively. Therefore, they are rejected under the same rationale as stated in claim 1.

Claims 19-34 have similar limitations as claims 2-17; therefore, they are rejected under the same subject matter.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record, listed on form PTO-892, and not relied upon, if any, is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DEBBIE M. LE whose telephone number is (571) 272-4111. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Vo can be reached on (571) 272-3642. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

DEBBIE LE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

5/11/07